

Appln No. 10/622,219

Amdt date January 23, 2004

Reply to Office action of December 1, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Currently claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 11 and 17 have been amended.

Claim 11 has been rejected as failing to provide sufficient antecedent basis for "the camcorder". Claim 11 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-3, 7 and 8 have been rejected as allegedly anticipated by Takubo. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more clearly recite the invention. It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are not anticipated by Takubo.

Claim 1 recites a camera stabilizer comprising, among other elements, means extending along an exterior surface of the platform for transmitting infrared camera signals from the handle of the stabilizer to a signal receiving port on the camera. The Examiner has indicated that Takubo recites a means for transmitting camera control signals from the handle to a signal receiving port on the camera, citing column 4, lines 15-29 and 46-52. The shouldering aid in Takubo includes a camera body 1 which is equipped with a start switch 5 with which on-off operations of the camera may be controlled. The hand grip 4 is equipped with a manipulation knob or trigger 6 which is mechanically linkable with the above-mentioned start switch 5. Clearly, from this reference, Takubo has a mechanical means for turning on and off a start switch on the camera. This is not the claimed transmission means which extends along an exterior surface of the platform for transmitting infrared camera control

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signals from the handle to a signal receiving port on the camera and therefore does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Claims 4-6 have been rejected as allegedly obvious over Takubo. Considering claims 4-6 are dependent upon claim 1, they are allowable for at least the reasons cited with respect to claim 1.

Claims 10-20 have been rejected as allegedly obvious over Takubo in view of The Zoom Commander reference, and further in view of Kosako. It is respectfully submitted that claims 10-20 as amended are not obvious in view of the cited combination. Each of claims 1, 11 and 17 recite means extending along an exterior surface of the platform (claim 1) or a fiber optic fiber (claims 11 and 17), which transmits infrared signals to a signal receiving port on the camera. Takubo as recited above does not include such a feature, and The Zoom Commander transmits electrical signals through a wire connection as acknowledged by the Examiner. Although Kosako discloses the use of fiber optics, they are all contained internally within the body of a camera and are not extending along an exterior surface of a platform.

It is respectfully submitted that there is no suggestion or teaching from the references themselves as to their combination as cited by the Examiner, and even if these references were properly combinable would not result in the claimed invention. Specifically, the resulting combination would consist of a platform having control mechanisms wired to the camera and a camera positioned on the platform having internal fiber optic fibers. This combination would not result in the claimed

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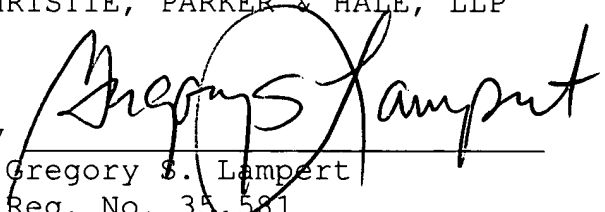
invention of having a stabilizing platform wherein a fiber optic cable extends from a fiber optic port in the platform along the surface of the platform and terminating at a signal receiving port on the camera. Consequently, infrared signals initiated at the handle by a remote control are transmitted along the surface of the platform to the signal receiving port on the camera. Such a combination is not suggested or taught by the cited combination and therefore is not obvious in light thereof.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and, accordingly, early indication thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By


Gregory S. Lampert

Reg. No. 35,581

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